



LUTHERAN SCOUTING

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 3

WWW.NLAS.ORG

FALL 2024



The National Lutheran Association on Scouting
Invites You to



Join us at Philmont for "Scouting in the Lutheran Church"

July 6-12, 2025



This course is for Scouters, clergy and congregational leaders who want to learn more about using Scouting as an outreach ministry for young people and their families. Lutherans from across the country will share ideas and best practices regarding relationships with chartered partners, membership, Religious Emblems, and how to best serve our youth and our churches.

Bring your family and be part of the fellowship unique to Philmont
Relax as we grow in faith and renewal with like-minded, dedicated and experienced Scouters.

Join us in the celebration of PTC's 75th Anniversary!

To register, log on at: www.philmontscoutranch.org/PTC.aspx



PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER

Religious Emblems Promotion Night

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. CST. For Religious Emblems Promotion Night Be sure to spread the word to other leaders, parents and Scouts.

The Promotion Night is a new Zoom event intended to showcase how to start earning a religious emblem. Adult leaders, kids and parents around the country can join to learn how to begin earning the emblem for their faith. There will be an opening session with Jason Noland of P.R.A.Y. who will explain common faith group things for religious emblems such as the national brochure and uniform knots. There will also be door prize drawings.

After the opening session everyone will move into a breakout room by the faith they want to learn about—it need not be their own faith. For example, a Christian Scoutmaster might want to find out how to guide a Jewish Scout to begin earning his/her Nir Tamid. Once the session is over, that concludes the event.

For more information, contact your Religious Relations Committee or the National Religious Relations Committee of Scouting America.

[Editor's note: if more information is available before the publication date of the *Winter Lutheran Scouting*, it will be included.]



The Right Answer to the Wrong Question

by Jim Whitehead, NLAS past-president



Have you ever invited a fellow Lutheran to join NLAS only to hear this question in response?

I have . . . many times. Actually, it's a really common question most people have when asked to join a group; a reflection of today's society interest or focus. I must admit that it took quite a while before I came up with a good way to deal with the question. We just have to redirect the asker to a better question.

To paraphrase a famous quote, "*Ask not what the NLAS can do for you; ask what your membership will help the NLAS do for youth.*" I've found that most would love to provide information on Religious Emblems; help with adult recognitions; provide scholarships, special certificates and other support; recognize units; provide "Duty to God" support to volunteers, districts and councils - - - if only they had the resources to do it.

Membership in the NLAS gives access to those resources, programs and recognitions. When combined with other members', one's annual dues are multiplied and make it possible for the NLAS to support Lutheran congregations, schools and organizations in using the programs of our partner youth-serving agencies . . . the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the USA and The American Heritage Girls.

Lutheran Recognition of Excellence (LRE)



Has your unit earned the Lutheran Recognition of Excellence? The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding Cub Scout Packs, Scouts BSA Troops, Venturing Crews, Sea Scout Ships and Explorer Posts that are chartered by Lutheran congregations or other Lutheran organizations and have met the criteria established by the National Lutheran Association on Scouting.

Here are the criteria: Within the calendar year the unit shall have accomplished all of the following:

1. Earned the Journey To Excellence Award (Bronze, Silver, or Gold level) of the Boy Scouts of America.
2. Ten percent or more of the registered youth members of the unit were enrolled in or have completed the appropriate Religious Emblems Program for their age level and religious affiliation.
3. The pastor serves as the Religious Emblems Counselor or has appointed someone to serve

in that capacity for the Jesus and Me, God and Me, God and Family, God and Church and the God and Life (as applicable) Religious Emblems Programs.

4. The unit participated in the local Lutheran congregation Scout Sunday observance and completed at least one service project for the chartering Lutheran organization.
5. The unit provided regular worship opportunities when away from their home congregations on Sundays for camping trips and outings, and provided the appropriate religious setting for banquets, ceremonies and other unit events (such as, prayer at unit and leader meetings or events).
6. The Chartered Organization Representative (COR) shall be a member of the chartering Lutheran congregation or, for other Lutheran organizations, a communicant member of a local Lutheran congregation.
7. For Scouts BSA Troops only*, the Chaplain Aide(s) is/are trained and actively working with a Lutheran pastor, youth minister, or designated lay person.

Upcoming Dates/Events 2025

February 6: Scout Jumuah

February 7-8: Scout Shabbat

February 9: Scout Sunday

Feb. 27: Religious Emblems Promotion night

May 2: National Day of Prayer, Scouts Read Sacred Texts

July 6-12: Lutheran Scouting week at Philmont

It is not too early to begin planning for any or all of these events. Then, after the event, don't forget to submit a paragraph and a pic to *Lutheran Scouting* telling how you celebrated. Send via email to mjscouter@aol.com.



Build-it-Yourself Religious Emblems Tabletop Display Kits

Have you ever wanted to explain the Religious Emblems at an event, or talk about your Lutheran faith to youth? Is making a nice Religious Emblems display too hard? NLAS is pleased to present two build-it-yourself tabletop displays. The free downloadable kit includes two images that are sized perfectly for a 36" x 48" tri-fold project board, and a list of links to downloadable documents for display or handouts. A third display is also available that explains Scouting as a Congregational Ministry.

Download one of the displays and send the image to your vendor of choice for printing on adhesive backed vinyl (costs about \$30). Place the vinyl image on your own display board (~\$10 at your office supply store), and you're ready to go! You can also select and print the documents you wish to hand out (or hand out the list of links).

The kits are downloadable from <https://bit.ly/3ZkLZQF> or the NLAS website Resources page <https://nlas.org/program-resources/>.

National Lutheran Association on Scouting

Religious Emblems

- Grades K-1
- Grades 2-3
- Grades 4-5
- Grades 6-8
- Grades 9-12

National Lutheran Association on Scouting

For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. - Martin Luther

Working with the Offices of Youth Ministry of

- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

...to encourage growth of faith in youth through the Religious Emblems and chaplaincy programs

...to encourage Lutheran congregations and schools to extend their ministry to children, youth, and families using the programs of our partner youth serving agencies

Boy Scouts of America | Girl Scouts of the USA | American Heritage Girls

...to encourage the partner agencies to emphasize growth in faith in their youth programs

National Lutheran Association on Scouting

Scholarship

A competitive scholarship open to High School seniors registered with AHE, ESLUSA, or BSA who have earned the Four-Star Recognition

NLAS 4-Star Scholarship

Unit Recognition

Lutheran Recognition of Excellence

Adult Leader Recognition

- Servant of Youth (5 years service+)
- Lutheran Lant (10 years service+)

NLAS tri-fold poster A.png is an image such as NLAS might use to witness to the Christian faith in Lutheran terms, such as at the BSA National Jamboree Duty to God and Country exhibits.

NLAS Four Star Scholarship

Amount: Two (2) \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded annually by NLAS.

Eligibility: Open to all youth registered with American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts of the USA, or Scouting America who have successfully earned four (4) P.R.A.Y. Program Awards and are seniors in high school. Scholarships are for post-secondary education and will be paid directly to the designated institution.

Criteria for consideration:

1. P.R.A.Y Awards: Earning the following: 1) either Jesus & Me or God & Me, 2) God & Family, 3) God & Church, and 4) God & Life.
2. Congregational activities: Summary of participation in home congregation such as confirmation education, youth group activities, or church sponsored programs. In addition:
 - A 500-1000 word faith statement from applicant.
 - Letter of Recommendation from Pastor of home congregation.
3. Academics: High School transcript reflecting a minimum of six (6) semesters of academic achievement that states unweighted and weighted GPA.

4. Summary of Extra-Curricular activities/ awards: Summary of activities (such as athletics, drama, robotics, band, or choir) and awards (such as varsity letter(s), NHS, or John Philip Sousa award).

5. Scouting program: Summary of participation years and highest rank achieved (such as Gold Award, Stars & Stripes Award, Eagle Scout rank).

Qualifying Institutions: Accredited Junior Colleges, Colleges, Universities, or Vocational Schools. Awarded scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution in the name of the recipient for tuition costs only. Funds cannot be applied to books, room & board, or travel expenses.

Application Process:

Applications may be submitted to NLAS from January 1 to May 1, 2025.

Review by NLAS will be completed by May 15, 2025.

Recommended recipients will be approved by NLAS Board by June 1, 2025.

Recipients will be notified by June 15, 2025.



Council-level Duty to God Award.

Similar to the National *Duty to God Award*, the Council *Duty to God Award* was created by the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee to recognize those registered Scouters who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local Council level. Information and nomination applications are available at the Duty to God BSA web site <http://bit.ly/3LqUtjB>

An unlimited number of nominations can be submitted to any Council each year, but a maxi-



imum of two Council Duty to God Awards per year may be awarded by 100 and 200 level councils and a maximum of one Council Duty to God Award per year may be awarded by 300, 400, and 500 level councils.

The NRRC suggests that the Council *Duty to God Award* presentation should be conducted with the highest level of honor at a council event (such as the council's Silver Beaver recognition) or a religious emblem ceremony of the recipient's faith. Each recipient should receive recognition worthy of the service rendered on Scouting's behalf.

President's Perspective



My friends in Christ,

Have you ever had so much to do, but life seemed to have other plans? This is where I have found myself for the last couple of months. No matter what I had planned, no matter the schedule I had set out, something, or someone caused me to lose my focus and do other things. Now, don't get me wrong, these were also important things, like unexpected time with my family, moving onto the property we purchased, filling in for band boosters, doctor's appointments, being the chaperone for trips that I was not prepared to take...etc. Some of these things were just time-consuming.

Now, I realized that I had not only neglected my work, and my duties to the NLAS, but I realized that most importantly, I had neglected God in doing so. I was so focused on being a helpful person, that I forgot who I was doing it for. It may seem like an exceedingly small thing in the grand scheme of things, but to those that it affected, it wasn't so small. I apologize if my loss of focus was a hindrance to any of you.

There are times that we fail. There are times where we fall short. There are times where we feel like nothing we do, will ever be enough. And you know, we are right. Romans 3:23-24 says, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Do you know what that means? It means that nothing we can do will ever be enough, because we are human, we are not perfect individuals, we are fallible, and we also have God's unchanging grace.

It is hard to believe that we can be justified by grace, especially when we fail. As it says in 2 Timothy 1:9 "he has saved us and called us to a holy life - not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time." So, you see, God planned for grace for each of us. Now I ask each of you to give me and yourself a little grace as we go forward. I know I would appreciate it.

Yours in Christ and Scouting,

Kristin Rogahn

NLAS President



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NLAS Board

NLAS Officers

President:	Kristin Rogahn	Kristin.rogahn@gmail.com
President-Elect:	Ben Wheeler	benjmin.wheeler@scouting.org
Secretary:	Wayne Stuckey	wstuckey.nlas@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Tom Miller	occnslt@gmail.com
Member at Large:	James C. Whitehead	jcwscouter@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large:	Aaron Rogahn	
ELCA Representative:	Reid Christopherson	reidchris@alliancecom.net
LCMS Representative:	Rev. Mark Kiessling	mark.kiesling@lcms.org

Ex-Officio

Pastoral Advisor:	Rev. Dana Narring	
Past President:	Tom Miller	occnslt@gmail.com
Parliamentarian:	Ronald Adolphi, PhD.	

Standing Chairs

Editor, <i>Lutheran Scouting</i> :	Marti Jernberg	mjscouter@aol.com
Membership:	Robert Moreno	membership.nlas@gmail.com
	Ben Wheeler	benjmin.wheeler@scouting.org
Webmaster:	Ryan Emblem	ryanemblem@gmail.com
Associations:	Open	
Recognition:	Judi Miller	millerj1959@comcast.net
Chaplaincy:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	2kingsrick@gmail.com

Special Committees

NLAS Lead Chaplain:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	2kingsrick@gmail.com
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Certificates Available

Upon request, the NLAS Recognition Committee offers a recognition certificate to youth and adults who have achieved Lutheran or Scouting awards. Complete the form on the NLAS website (one submission per award) and NLAS will recognize you or your scout with an NLAS Certificate of Commendation.



From the Editor

Here are the submission deadlines for upcoming issues of *Lutheran Scouting*:

Winter - January 1

Spring - April 1

Summer - July 1

Fall - October 1

Please submit articles and/or photos for upcoming issues by the dates listed. These are intended to be hard deadlines, however, if there is a reason for you to delay an article, please contact me either by email (mjscouter@aol.com) or phone (847-337-0903). Of course, you can submit articles or pictures at any time in the month preceding the deadline.

I would like to see more articles like "Eagles in Action" or "Scout Sunday Activities".



A Publication of National Lutheran Association on Scouting

11123 South Towne Square, Suite B
St. Louis, MO 63123-7816
www.nlas.org



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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR WINTER ISSUE: JANUARY 1, 2025



We are a resource for youth and adults who wish to know more about the religious emblems program, endorsed by the Lutheran Churches for members of Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, 4H and Camp Fire USA.

NLAS Mission

To equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of our partner youth serving agencies.

NLAS Vision

That all young people and their families are exposed to Jesus Christ and have an opportunity to know him as Lord and Savior

The mission and visions statements were accepted by the NLAS Executive Board on October 12th, 2002